

March 8, 2016

## **Labor and Public Employees Committee Public Hearing Senate Bill No. 221 - Support**

Good morning Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

My name is Stephen Anderson and I am the President of CSEA SEIU Local 2001, a labor union which represents thousands of workers employed in the private sector, as well as state and municipal government throughout Connecticut. **I am testifying today on behalf of CSEA in support of Senate Bill No. 221, AN ACT CONCERNING PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE.**

The United States stands alone among industrialized countries in failing to guarantee workers paid family leave. When a loved one has a health crisis, or when a new child is born or adopted, far too many American workers are forced to take unpaid leave or exit the workforce altogether. Low-income workers and their families are especially vulnerable as they often lack the financial resources necessary to take advantage of unpaid time off. CSEA supports Senate Bill No. 221 and other efforts that increase paid leave and cover more workers for longer periods of time so that employees can both attend to their own health needs and care for loved ones. We are pleased that this proposal will expand the definition of “family member” to include a parent or grandparent.

I urge you to support this important bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Stephen Anderson  
President, CSEA SEIU Local 2001